

VZCZCXRO4618

RR RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD
DE RUEHB^J #0657 0531033

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 221033Z FEB 08

FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5289

INFO RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 8981

RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 3859

RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0015

RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 8900

RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 8643

RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 5849

RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

RHMFIU/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC

RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC 0712

RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA

RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS BEIJING 000657

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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BANGKOK FOR REO AND CDC

HHS FOR OGHA - STEIGER, HICKEY

CDC ATLANTA FOR CCID AND COGH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO KFLU EAGR CH

SUBJECT: BEIJING CONFIRMS SECOND AVIAN INFLUENZA FATALITY IN 2008

REF A) BEIJING 585, B) 07 BEIJING 7567

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Ministry of Health (MOH) has confirmed the second avian influenza death in China in 2008. The case, an unemployed 41 year-old male, died on Feb. 20 in Guangxi Province. Although the MOH report indicated that the patient had been in contact with infected poultry before contracting the disease, the Chinese authorities have not reported any new avian outbreaks of influenza in the Guangxi area. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) On Feb. 22, the Ministry of Health transmitted a fax to the Embassy to report an avian influenza (H5N1) case in Guangxi Province. The case, an unemployed 41 year-old male from Nanning, the capital of Guangxi, was hospitalized on Feb. 12 and died on Feb.

¶20. After tests confirmed that the patient had died of avian influenza, a local investigation revealed that he had recently been in contact with sick poultry. On Feb. 21, laboratories of the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the earlier diagnosis and determined that the patient died of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Recent contacts of the patient have been placed under strict medical observation. To date, none have exhibited symptoms of the disease.

¶3. (SBU) Although the local authorities indicated that the patient had recent contact with infected poultry, the Chinese Government has not reported any new avian cases in the Guangxi area. The last reported outbreak among poultry was in Tibet on Feb. 17 (see ref B). China has reported 29 cases of human avian influenza infection since 2003, with 19 deaths.

RANDT